

## **Statement**

**Gayle A. Russell  
Gaming Policy Board**

**Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee  
March 31, 2009**

Good afternoon Senator Looney, Representative Jankowski, members of the Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee.

My name is Gayle Russell. I am honored that Governor Rell has nominated me to serve again as a member of the Gaming Policy Board and I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you so that you have the information that you need to confirm me for this important position.

I have served on the Gaming Policy Board for the last 2 years and I have found it a rewarding and enjoyable experience. I am grateful to Executive Director Paul Young and the members of the Gaming Policy Board for making this opportunity such a positive experience and I appreciate the opportunity to serve the state in this way.

I will briefly summarize my experience and education. I have been a financial advisor with Merrill Lynch for the last 4 years. Prior to Merrill Lynch, I taught finance full-time at Eastern Connecticut State University and earned both tenure and a promotion. I was granted a leave of absence by Eastern to go overseas to teach in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) at the American University of Sharjah. Prior to joining the faculty at Eastern, I earned a Ph.D. and MBA in finance from the University of Connecticut (UCONN). While pursuing my doctorate, I had the opportunity to teach finance to the undergraduate students at UCONN and found that I loved teaching because I love the learning process. After earning my B.S. in accounting and finance from Miami University (Ohio), I worked 10 years in various accounting management positions with Union Carbide Corporation.

Due to my teaching experience, I have been asked by both religious and social organizations to teach various aspects of personal financial planning. This experience plus my teaching experience highlighted a need to help people to manage their money more effectively and efficiently. I believe that I am responsible to contribute to society and I felt compelled to leave teaching to pursue another dream of mine to help people by becoming a financial advisor. I love finance and I love helping people to see how money can help to improve their life and the lives of people that they care about.

At this time, I would be happy to answer any questions that you may have for me. I appreciate your time and attention to my nomination.

Thank you for your consideration.